NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia 23681-2199

Judi Tull Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va.

Dale Willis Honeywell Technology Center, Phoenix, Ariz. (602) 436-5302

RELEASE NO. 99-079

(757) 864-3189



For Release: Nov. 8, 1999

NASA AND HONEYWELL DEMONSTRATE SYSTEM IN MINNEAPOLIS **New Technology Will Increase On-Time Landings**

Air travelers frustrated with ever-increasing delays at the nation's airports may soon look forward to a new technology that could solve a significant part of the problem.

NASA, Honeywell Technology Center and Honeywell Airport Systems have developed Airborne Information for Lateral Spacing (AILS) and Closely Spaced Parallel Approach (CASPER). The systems expand on existing communication and navigation technology to allow planes to land safely in bad weather on parallel runways spaced as close as 2,500 feet apart.

Currently, the minimum runway separation during low visibility is 4,300 feet, which means that some of the nation's biggest airports have shut down one of their their closely spaced runways when weather conditions deteriorate. Among the facilities AILS/CASPER technology could impact are airports in Detroit, Seattle and Minneapolis.

NASA and Honeywell are conducting in-flight demonstrations of the systems at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Nov. 8 through 10 for Federal Aviation Administration officials and other government and industry representatives, and invited media.

With AILS/CASPER, aircraft coming in to land "talk" to each other by Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B), a technology under development by the FAA and industry. Differential Global Positioning Satellite (DGPS) signals provide precise information about each plane's location.

Simultaneous use of the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), AILS alerting functions, and simple, consistent pilot procedures that include an emergency maneuver assures safe landings.

Fewer bad-weather delays will mean financial savings for the airline industry, more efficient airports, and travelers arriving at their destinations on time.